

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 11322 191619Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 /071 W
-----126580 191647Z /47

P 191450Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3650
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11322

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, VT, RO
SUBJECT: VATICAN/ROMANIA - ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS ON STATUTO

REF: ROME 6572

1. VATICAN OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED US THAT VATICAN DELEGATION, CONSISTING OF NUNCIO-AT-LARGE POGGI AND EAST EUROPEAN EXPERT BUKOVSKY, EXPECTS TO DEPART JUNE 20 FOR AN EIGHT-DAY VISIT TO BUCHAREST.

2. VATICAN DELEGATION PLANS TO RESUME TALKS WITH ROMANIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH HIERARCHY AND WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA (GOR) ON THE CONCLUSION OF A "STATUTO" FOR THE LEGALIZATION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ROMANIA.

3. VATICAN OFFICIAL EXPRESSED GUARDED OPTIMISM REGARDING THE FORTHCOMING TALKS, SAYING THAT VATICAN HAS RE-DRAFTED STATUTO TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE OBSERVATIONS MADE BY GOR OFFICIALS DURING BUKOVSKY'S

PREVIOUS TRIP TO BUCHAREST IN APRIL (ROME 6572).

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4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THIS PROSPECTIVE VISIT, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT ON JUNE 14 THERE APPEARED IN THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY'S NEWSPAPER, AVVENIRE, A HIGHLY CRITICAL ARTICLE OF THE GOR'S RELIGIOUS POLICY. THE ARTICLE IS LARGELY DEVOTED TO THE GOR DECREE NO. 358 OF DECEMBER 1, 1948, WHICH DECREED THE "DEATH" OF THE UNIATE CHURCH AND CONCLUDES WITH A STATEMENT THAT "THIS CHURCH AS FOR 30 YEARS BEEN WAITING FOR SOME AUTHORITATIVE

VOICE TO ARISE IN ORDER TO DENOUNCE THE SUPPRESSION TO WHICH
THE CHURCH HAS BEEN A VICTIM." AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE
VATICAN HAS RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO PUT OFF UNTIL LATER NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE GOR THE QUESTION OF THE UNIATE CHURCH WHICH WAS FORCIBLY
UNITED TO THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH FOLLOWING THE COMMUNIST
ASSUMPTION OF POWER. IT SEEMS, THEREFORE, THAT THE AVVENIRE
ARTICLE IS PROBABLY INSPIRED BY OPPONENTS OF THE VATICAN'S
CURRENT POLICY TOWARDS ROMANIA. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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